



Governor Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
San Wong, Director

MEETING MINUTES

COMMISSION OF ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER AFFAIRS (CAPI)

Date: Wednesday, December 12, 2018

Time: Noon – 1:00 PM

Conference Call – Public Access Provided

Commissioners Present:

Ben Jung, Chair – *West Des Moines (by phone)*

James Suong – *Des Moines (by phone)*

Karlai Thornburg – *Ames (by phone)*

Michelle Yoshimura-Smith – *Des Moines (by phone)*

Suresh Basnet – *Cedar Rapids (by phone)*

Peggy La – *Sioux City (by phone)*

Ritu Gurung – *Davenport (by phone)*

Absent: None

DHR/CAS/API Staff:

Monica Stone, DHR/CAS Division Director

Tina Shaw, Executive Officer for Office of Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs/CAS

Public Attendance: None

I. Call to Order

Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. All seven commissioners present by phone. Quorum present.

II. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

Yoshimura-Smith motioned, seconded by Suong to approve the minutes from the 9/29/18 meeting. Unanimous consent. **Motion carried.** Minutes will be posted to the DHR-CAPI website.

III. Work Discussion - Draft of CAPI Policy Recommendations

Shaw presented a rough draft of the comprehensive document that reflects the current CAPI Strategic Plan and walked through the document explaining its components and objectives. Commissioners La, Gurung and Basnet indicated they would provide input into the document in these policy areas: education, workforce and small business. Shaw will provide a second draft inclusive of their contributions for the next commission meeting.

IV. Announcements & Miscellaneous

Suong raised the issue of the pending federal regulation to redefine “public charge” as the deadline for public comment was 12/10/18. Shaw will provide CAPI with any updates as they

become available. While not directly impacting the refugee community with green cards, it will impact their financial histories if they accept public financial assistance, as specified in the rule. Financial histories will be scrutinized, if they apply to sponsor overseas family members to come to the US.

Jung raised the topic of Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrant healthcare options and asked if a legislative proposal is anticipated from the Marshallese or other COFA organizations. Shaw responded that the COFA community in the Greater Dubuque-area has organized under a new umbrella organization: The Pacific Islander Health Project (PIHP). Program staff was hired by and housed within Crescent Community Health Center in Dubuque to pursue and advocate for access to healthcare for this population. The Office of API has been in continuous contact with PIHP and COFA population spokespersons working on healthcare access and drivers' license renewals. In the draft CAPI policy recommendations, a section under healthcare access reflects Commission support for critical healthcare assistance and well-being programs to reduce diabetes. Due to regional nuclear testing fall-out, higher rates of cancers are detected in this Pacific Islander demographic.

Basnet inquired about the 2019 IA DHR Day on the Hill. Stone indicated a date was set: Thursday 2/28/19. Time and program details are still a work-in-progress. Basnet asked if time is allotted to directly connect with legislators. Stone responded in the affirmative and that staff is able to assist in scheduling appointments. Talking points and one-page briefing information will also be provided to all commissioners.

Shaw briefly updated CAPI on an upcoming [US Election Assistance Commission \(EAC\)](#) report that will include data on Iowa's use of provisional ballots, among other post-election topics, that will be released mid-January 2019. County auditors are currently collecting figures of rejection letters for both absentee/early voting and provisional ballots. Auditors have 60 days following an election to report and qualify ballots cast.

In the pending report, data will indicate whether an uptick in provisional ballots took place or not following the enactment of Voter ID law. The concern is that many limited-English proficient Iowans may have had their ballots treated as a provisional rather than an "active" ballot. If assigned a provisional ballot, the onus is on the voter to return to prove identity and residency – if either were in question by front-line election poll workers.

Shaw will circulate the report and its findings when the report is released.

V. Next CAPI meeting

Shaw will distribute a Doodle scheduling poll ranging from 1/10/19 -1/15/19.

VI. Adjournment

Jung motioned, seconded by Basnet to adjourn the meeting at 12:56 PM. Unanimous consent.
Motion carried.